

MINUTES
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

October 4, 2016
DATCP Board Room
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, Wisconsin

Item #1 Call to Order—pledge of allegiance, open meeting notice, approval of agenda, approval of August 2, 2016 LWCB meeting minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Cupp at 9:00 a.m. Cupp, Lynn Harrison, George Mika, Dave Solin, Eric Birschbach, John Petty, Caitlin Frederick, and Mary Anne Lowndes were in attendance. A quorum was present. Advisors Kurt Calkins (WI Land + Water) and Eric Allness (NRCS, for Jimmy Bramblett) were present. Others present included John Saykally, Waushara County LCD; Dale Olson, Sawyer County LWCD; Rich Wolosyn, Florence County LCD; Todd Jenson, Green County LWCD; Aaron Larson, DNR; Coreen Fallat, Richard Castelnuovo, Lisa Trumble, and Chris Clayton, DATCP.

Clayton confirmed that the meeting was publicly noticed.

Mika moved to approve the agenda as presented, Harrison seconded, and the motion carried.

Solin moved to approve the August 2, 2016 meeting minutes, Mika seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #2 Public Appearances

No public appearance cards were submitted.

Item #3 Report on the 2017 DATCP and DNR final allocation plan

Castelnuovo, DATCP, reported that two comments were submitted with respect to DATCP's portion of the preliminary 2017 joint allocation plan. The first comment was regarding inequities in the formula for allocating cost share grants to the counties through available bond funds. Castelnuovo indicated that this comment is valid and that DATCP staff plans to meet with the legislative committee of WI Land + Water later this month to address possible changes that would go into effect in 2018. The second comment was regarding a request to adjust the staffing grant allocation to Pierce County due to a mistake on the application. Castelnuovo reported that DATCP will not be able to accommodate this request. Also, he stated that neither comment affected the final allocation plan before the board.

Larson, DNR, reported on the DNR's funding decisions on applications for Targeted Runoff Management grants and Urban Nonpoint Source & Stormwater Management BMP Construction grants. Larson reported that DNR solicited Urban Nonpoint Source Construction Grant applications in FY17 and planning grant applications will be solicited in FY18.

Castelnuovo reported a change in DATCP's allocation due to underspending in the Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant program. DATCP shifted the unspent funds into the Nutrient Management cost-share program and into a reserve to host a conference for recipients of the Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Program.

Harrison moved to approve the 2017 DATCP and DNR final allocation plan, Birschbach seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #4 Recommendation for approval of 5-year extension request for Waushara County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Saykally made a presentation in support of Waushara County's 5-year extension of its LWRM plan. (The presentation can be accessed at DATCP's Land and Water Conservation Board website: <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/LWCBOctober2016WausharaPresentation.pdf>.)

Saykally highlighted the county's progress in meeting planned goals and activities, and addressed key benchmarked activities pursued by the county over the past five years.

Saykally reported that the county submitted an annual work plan that covers planned activities consistent with new DATCP requirements.

The following issues were discussed: the merging of the land conservation and zoning departments; percentage of county farmland under nutrient management plans.

Harrison moved to approve Waushara County's 5-year extension request as presented, Mika seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #5 Recommendation of approval of Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision for Sawyer County

Olson made a presentation in support of Sawyer County's 5-year review of its 10-year LWRM plan. (The presentation can be accessed at DATCP's Land and Water Conservation Board website: <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/LWCBOctober2016SawyerPresentation.pdf>.)

Olson reported that the county's current farm priority strategy is effective. He highlighted the county's progress in meeting planned activities to meet the goals and objectives defined in its approved LWRM plan, and addressed key benchmarked activities pursued by the county over the past five years. Olson also reported that Sawyer County submitted an updated annual work plan to capture changes in planned activities necessary to meeting the goals and objectives outlined in its 10-year LWRM plan.

The following issues were discussed: existing TMDL and Nine Key Elements plans; challenges to implementing TMDL pollution reduction goals; involvement of lakes associations in land and water conservation issues; challenges educating landowners about the changed shoreland zoning rules; challenges arising from the development of shoreline areas on lakes and rivers; funding for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grants and support for continued county funding of AIS grants.

Mika moved to approve Sawyer County's 5-year review as meeting the board's criteria for 5-year plan reviews, Harrison seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #6 Report on 2015 program accomplishments by counties

Fallat presented the 2015 Land and Water Conservation Annual Report. (The report can be accessed at: <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/LandWaterAnnualReport2015.pdf>.)

Fallat focused on the following: the increasing use of various methods to estimate reductions in P and sediment runoff; systems for tracking landowner participants of the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) and to issue certificates of compliance; a movement towards tracking Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs), conservation practices, and permits; benefits to the counties by using technologies; the increased numbers of acres reported under NMPs, much of it due to increased FPP participation.

Fallat also reported on future directions in land and water conservation: integrating reporting with LWRM plans and workplans; capturing conservation information from tracking systems; engaging audiences to tell the story of land and water conservation in Wisconsin.

The following issues were discussed: finding more ways to get this story out; distributing copies of the report to counties, online, assembly and senate natural resource and agriculture committees, DNR, and legislators serving areas where stories were highlighted.

Item #7 Recommendation for approval of 5-year extension request for Florence County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Wolosyn made a presentation in support of Florence County's 5-year extension of its LWRM plan. (The presentation can be accessed at DATCP's Land and Water Conservation Board website: <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/LWCBOct2016FlorencePresentation.pdf>.)

Wolosyn highlighted the county's progress in meeting planned goals and activities, and addressed key benchmarked activities pursued by the county over the past five years.

Wolosyn reported that the county submitted an annual work plan that covers planned activities consistent with new DATCP requirements.

The following issues were discussed: the number of remaining dairies; the activity of forestry operations; funding requests for staffing and cost sharing practices.

Solin moved to approve Florence County's 5-year extension request as presented, Frederick seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #9 Recommendation for approval of 5-year extension request for Green County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Jenson made a presentation in support of Green County's 5-year extension of its LWRM plan. (The presentation can be accessed at DATCP's Land and Water Conservation Board website: <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/LWCBOctober2016GreenPresentation.pdf>.)

Jenson highlighted the county's progress in meeting planned goals and activities, and addressed key benchmarked activities pursued by the county over the past five years.

Jenson reported that the county submitted an annual work plan that covers planned activities consistent with new DATCP requirements.

The following issues were discussed: T values, and how farms will be affected by changes in T values.

Birschbach moved to approve Green County's 5-year extension request as presented, Harrison seconded, and the motion carried.

Item #10 Agency reports

NRCS – Allness reported that NRCS is processing applications for a recent enrollment period. This past year, Wisconsin NRCS achieved 1 million acres enrolled in conservation and obligated the 25,000th contract with a landowner. The state requested federal designation of flood disaster areas, and the agency is identifying priorities for providing assistance

WI Land + Water – Calkins reported completion of the first round of workgroup meetings for the Food, Land & Water Project. The plan is to roll out the project's findings at the annual conference in March. The legislative committee will discuss the budget at its upcoming meeting.

DATCP – Petty reported that FSA has approved a petition to expand the CREP area. The department received twelve grant applications for the Producer-Led Watershed Protection (PLWP) program. The permanent rule for the PLWP program, ATCP 52, will go out for two public hearings, and a meeting for grant recipients will be held in December. The ATCP 50 revisions to incorporate NRCS 590 will go out for hearings in January and February 2017. Currently, ATCP 51 is in the revision process.

DNR – Lowndes reported that NR 151 was opened for rulemaking by the Natural Resource Board, and the proposed timeline has the revised rule being sent to the legislature by January 2018. Two more CAFO positions were budgeted for a total of four (the first two have been hired) to provide a greater in-field presence. The DNR conducted spreading observations in Kewaunee County to review and give feedback to manure haulers. Revisions to NR 243 are needed but on hold for now.

DOA – Frederick reported that state agencies have submitted their budget requests to the governor.

Cupp reported that the Governor reappointed Birschbach and him to the LWCB, and the reappointments are pending Senate confirmation.


Item #11 Planning for December 2016 Meeting

- Five LWRM plans will be on the agenda.
- Proposed revisions to ATCP 50 will be presented in December.
- Review of the LWCB Bylaws.

Item #12 Adjourn

Frederick moved to adjourn, Mika seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Birschbach, Secretary

12/6/16

Date

Recorder: CRC, DATCP